

Russians Say Bomb Can Orbit

From News Dispatches

MOSCOW, Nov. 18—The Soviet Union acknowledged today that it has orbital nuclear missiles that can pierce existing enemy antimissile defenses.

The acknowledgment, by Marshal Nikolai I. Krylov, chief of Soviet strategic rocket forces, confirmed an announcement by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara Nov. 3 that the Soviet Union apparently was testing a bomb that could orbit three-quarters of the earth, striking at the United States from the South Pole in order to elude radar defenses.

McNamara said then that the United States was installing a new over-the-horizon radar system that would detect an orbital bomb upon launching, thus providing adequate time for the bomb to be destroyed in flight by an antimissile satellite.

Marshal Krylov spoke of the new Soviet development at a Moscow meeting called in connection with Sunday's observance of Soviet Missile Forces Day. The Soviet Union, he said, has "new, powerful missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads to the target along ballistic and orbital trajectories."

"The head portions of these rockets carry devices to break through the enemy's antimissile defenses," he said.

On Wednesday, Moscow News, an English-language newspaper for tourists and other foreign visitors, said McNamara's contention of Nov. 3 was a "fabrication."

Krylov, speaking of other rockets, repeated a claim by his deputy yesterday that Russia has solid-fuel intercontinental missiles that can be mounted on self-propelled carriers with cross-country mobility that makes them invulnerable.

"No other country has such a proposal," he said.